

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-15 and 19-21 are in the application. Claims 9 and 16-18 stand withdrawn as directed to a non-elected species.

Claim 4 has been amended to place it in form as directed to the elected species.

The drawings have not been amended. A support is shown in Fig 7, with the outer wall 68.1 of the support, page 23, line 16.

The claims objections have been noted and where necessary have been corrected.

Claims 1-8, 10-15, and 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Madl – 4,898,497.

Claim 1 has been amended to distinguish over Madl and to set forth the elongated openings and the notches more specifically.

The elongated openings have parallel sides extending in the elongated direction.

The notches 6, 7 extend at least for the length of the elongated openings in side-by-side relation and extend outwardly from the opening transversely of the elongated sides of the openings.

In Madl, the openings are circular and do not have parallel sides. The serrated teeth 142 do not extend outwardly from and transversely of the parallel elongated sides of the elongated openings.

In the application if the fastening elements are released the connecting can be displaced in the elongated direction of the openings and then retightened. There is nothing in Madl which suggests such an arrangement.

The Madl reference discloses a foundation system and distinctive bracing system for manufactured building. The frames of the support are vertically adjustable. There is no indication or suggestion of the adjustability available in the applicant's structure.

In view of the amendments to claim 1, the rejections of claim 2-15, 19 and 20 are overcome. The rejection of claim 21 is also overcome.

Therefore, in view of the amendment to the claims and the lack of any disclosure or suggestion in Madl of the connecting element as presently claimed, it

is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are allowable and a favorable action is solicited.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



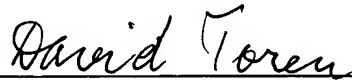
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